



State Cancer
Legislative
Database Program

PROSTATE CANCER LAWS

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Ten states now have prostate cancer-related laws, all of which have been enacted since 1990. Most of these laws require insurers to provide coverage for prostate cancer screening tests. Others address quality assurance of the tests, provision of information about prostate cancer treatment, and building public awareness about prostate cancer.

Reimbursement for Prostate Cancer Screening Tests

Seven states have laws requiring specified group and individual insurers to provide coverage for prostate cancer screening tests, including prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests and digital rectal examinations. Most of these states require that coverage be provided for men within specified age groups (see *table below*).

Quality Assurance of Prostate Cancer Screening Tests

Only one state—Georgia—has a law that specifies screening-test quality assurance requirements. In Georgia, PSA tests must comply with standards established by the College of American Pathologists.

Age Requirements for Insurance Coverage of Prostate Cancer Screening Tests

State	Tests That Must Be Covered	Frequency of Testing	Age Requirements
Alaska	Prostate antigen tests or tests that are equivalent or better in prostate cancer detection	Annual	Men ages 40 to 49 at high risk; all men ages 50 and older
Colorado	PSA tests and digital rectal exams	Annual	Men ages 40 to 49 at high risk; all men ages 50 and older
Delaware	PSA tests	Not specified	All men ages 50 and older
Georgia	PSA tests	Annual	Men ages 40 and older if test is ordered by a physician; all men ages 45 and older
Minnesota	PSA tests and digital rectal exams	Not specified	Men ages 40 to 49 who are symptomatic or at high risk; all men ages 50 and older
New Jersey	PSA tests and digital rectal exams	Annual	Men ages 40 and older with family history of prostate cancer or other prostate cancer risk factors; all men ages 50 and older
North Carolina	PSA or equivalent tests (referral by a physician is required for reimbursement)	Not specified	Not specified

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 1997.

Provision of Information about Prostate Cancer Treatment

California has a law requiring the state Department of Health Services to develop in layman's language a standardized written summary about treatment options. The statement is to be made available to physicians and surgeons for their patients.

Building Awareness about Prostate Cancer Treatment

In Texas, a law requires the Commissioner of Public Health to develop and implement a program that provides information to the public about prostate cancer causes, early detection and prevention, and treatment options.

Summary of Enacted Prostate Cancer Laws by Category (Through December 1996)

State	Reimbursement for Prostate Cancer Screening Tests	Quality Assurance of Prostate Cancer Screening Tests	Provision of Information about Prostate Cancer Treatment	Building Awareness about Prostate Cancer	Feasibility Study for Funding Services
Alaska	•				
California			•		
Colorado	•				
Delaware	•				
Georgia	•	•			
Minnesota	•				
New Jersey	•				
North Carolina	•				
Texas				•	
West Virginia					•